

Preservation Parks of Delaware County



Preserve. Conserve. Connect.



PRESERVATION PARKS
DELAWARE COUNTY

www.preservationparks.com

**Preservation Parks
of Delaware County**
2656 Hogback Road
Sunbury, OH 43074
740.524.8600

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tom Curtin

BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS

**John Bader
Dan Boysel
Bruce Ruhl**

SPRING 2016 Programs & Events

Message from the Director

Certain aspects of it appear to emanate from an ethereal source, other forms arise from apparent lifelessness, and figures materialize from the firmament landing amid emerging foliage. All these elements are stirred into animation and released into existence from the mixing of earth, wind, rain and warmth.

We move within a cauldron of chemistry that bonds us to a natural progression of life, which occurs during the season of rapid emergence we call Spring. The following pages entice us to arise and proceed to the parks and steep in the season's energy.

Growth starts early at Gallant Farm with the focus on the garden during Spring Garden Day, and continues to fortify via food for thought through the farm's book club, and heal by way of the plants and herbs from nature's pharmacy. Participate in Gallant Farm's offerings and shadow the seasons, rooting yourself in the cultivation of living.

Vocals infuse field, forest and wetlands as critters claim their space, hurrying to establish themselves within the habitat that will nurture the year's offspring. Merge with the natural world at the side of Park Staff traveling to vernal pools that support populations of mole salamanders, focus on the winged migrants from Central and South America through bird walks, and follow the pollinators that blossom-hop throughout the parks. Spring – soak in it.

Tom Curtin, executive director

Preservation Parks' mission is to protect and conserve the natural and historic features of Delaware County and to inspire outdoor exploration and learning.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

MARCH

Sunday, March 6 – Rockin' Terrariums ☼ \$

Rocks, charcoal, soil – oh my! See how these things stack up to create a successful and beautiful natural centerpiece. But building a terrarium is only half the story; staff also will show you how to care for it. There is a \$10 materials fee, and participants should bring their own jars. Register by Feb. 28.

1 p.m. DHP — adults, ages 18+

Tuesday, March 8 – Preschool Park Pals: Rascally Rabbits 🐰

We'll have a hopping good time learning about rabbits and how their big ears and big teeth help them survive in the wild! A domestic rescued rabbit will visit during the program. Register by March 1.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. DHP — ages 4 & 5, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, March 12 – Spring Garden Day (Homesteading Series, p. 4)

See box on p. 6 for program details.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. GF — all ages

Sunday, March 13 – Wings of Wonder

It's always awe-inspiring to see a large hawk soaring overhead, but it's even more exciting to see one up close! Drop in to get face to face with birds of prey, and learn why these birds are some of Ohio's most important residents.

Noon - 4:30 p.m. DHP — all ages

Monday, March 14 – Hound Hike

Bring your socialized canine for a walk with a naturalist. See box, below, for more Hound Hike details.

6:30 p.m. GWP — all ages

Thursday, March 17 – Homeschool Adventures: Vernal Pool Safari 🐸

The annual cycle of these tiny wetlands supports a host of fascinating creatures! If the weather is cooperative, we will hike to a small vernal pool to search for the many animals that live there. Be prepared to get muddy and wet. Register by March 12.

10 a.m. GWP — ages 6-12, accompanied by an adult

Hound Hikes — Bring your socialized canine for a walk with a naturalist. Your dog will receive a bandana at your first hike, and a paw print stamp for each hike completed. Dogs must be up to date on all shots and have county tags. Meet at the park kiosks and pick up one of our **Pets in the Parks brochures**, for all you need to know about bringing your pets out on the trails.

Hound hikes are scheduled for March 14, April 11 and May 16. Details on each hike are included in the monthly listings in this program guide.



Vernal Pool at Gallant Woods Park

Park Key

Big Walnut Community Trail (BWCT) 168 S. Vernon St., Sunbury	Gallant Woods Park (GWP) 2151 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware
Blues Creek Park (BCP) 9627 Fontanelle Road, Ostander	Hogback Ridge Park (HRP) 2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury
Char-Mar Ridge Park (CMRP) 7741 Lewis Center Road, Westerville	Hoover Scenic Trail (HST) 8405 Plumb Road, Galena
Deer Haven Park (DHP) 4183 Liberty Road, Delaware	River Run Park (RRP) 168 Main Road, Delaware
Emily Traphagan Park (ETP) 5094 Seldom Seen Road, Powell	Shale Hollow Park (SHP) 6320 Artesian Run, Lewis Center
Gallant Farm (GF) 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware	

Saturday, March 19 – Stalking the Vernal Equinox

Join Park District staff as we get adventuresome and head off-trail at Char-Mar Ridge to stalk signs of the coming vernal equinox. Who knows what we'll find lurking behind trees and beneath our feet? Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle.

10 a.m. CMRP — ages 7+

Sunday, March 20 – Spring Equinox Delight

Plants are sprouting, winds are softening, wildlife is awakening and adventures await on the day of the Spring Equinox. Bring the entire family to this drop-in program, to enjoy nature activities along the trails and streams at Shale Hollow Park.

1 - 4 p.m. SHP — all ages

Friday, March 25 – Here We Go A'Doodling

Timberdoodling, that is. Join us as we try to sneak a glimpse of this remarkable bird that is a springtime favorite of outdoor enthusiasts! If conditions are favorable, we will hear, and perhaps witness, the courtship sky dance of this chubby little shorebird.

7:15 p.m. GWP — ages 7+

Saturday, March 26 – Stalking the Wild Bird

Join Park District staff for an exhilarating morning bird walk on Char-Mar Ridge Park's 1.7-mile Glacier Ridge Trail. We'll stop at the wildlife observation blind to look for waterfowl on the pond and see who's coming to the feeders. Don't miss this first of three spring morning bird walks. All skill levels are welcome, and loaner binoculars will be available.

8 a.m. CMRP — ages 7+

Monday, March 28 – Delaware County Bird Club

Tom Sheley, of Wild Birds Unlimited, will talk about warblers, and why Ohio, with its variety of habitats, is one of the best locations in the U.S. to seek out migrating and resident warblers. The Bird Club is open to anyone who appreciates birds and the natural world. Each meeting includes conversation and refreshments, followed by announcements and a program.

7 - 9 p.m. DHP — ages 14+

Wednesday, March 30 – Gallant Farm Book Club

Don't be shy! Join us in reading books that were popular during the Depression era and World War II years, or were written about those periods. All you need to do is read the book in advance and come for a fun, lively discussion. The March selection is *Wild Geese Calling* by Stewart E. White.

6:30 p.m. GF — ages 14+

Walking Trails / Nature Programs / Picnic Shelters

Pollinators: We all need them!

A one-day workshop for teachers – April 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Are you looking for a new subject to spark your students' interest in science? Our native pollinators – bees, butterflies and other insects – are in trouble due to human impact. At the workshop, you'll learn the "who, what, why" of pollinators and how to use these life-giving creatures in your classroom to meet STEM standards. The workshop is open to all Delaware County elementary school teachers, grades 2-5. You'll receive a resource kit filled with materials to help you pollinate the success of your students. Lunch provided. **\$10 fee. Deer Haven Park. Register by April 16, online at www.preservationparks.com. Call 740-524-8600, ext. 3, for more details.**

APRIL

Saturday, April 2 – Let's Get Wild!

We'll step off-trail in search of Shale Hollow's wilder side. Marvel at geologic curiosities, enjoy early spring blooms, and look out for creatures celebrating spring. Who knows what we'll find? Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle.

10 a.m. SHP — ages 7+

Sunday, April 3 – Spring Bling!

How do trees know it's time to send out their leaves? What causes the fresh smell we so often associate with spring? Drop in to the Visitor Center to find out what changes are happening as spring bursts forth!

Noon - 5 p.m. DHP — all ages

Saturday, April 9 – Spring Ramble for Adults

We'll look for plants sprouting and other signs of spring during a relaxing walk along the 1.7-mile Glacier Ridge Trail. Hike is co-sponsored by SourcePoint.

1 p.m. CMRP — ages 21+

Sunday, April 10 – Creekin' and Peekin'

Discover what is hiding beneath the surface of Big Run Creek. You might meet a fish or discover an ancient fossil, but no matter what, you will have fun. Meet at the McKay Lodge in the lower parking lot and be prepared to get muddy and wet.

1 p.m. SHP — all ages

Monday, April 11 – Storytime in the Park

Bring your wee one to the park and enjoy singing, movement, and a nature-themed story with volunteer Amy Walter. Help your child discover the wonders of the natural world.

9 a.m. DHP — ages 0-5

Monday, April 11 – Hound Hike

Bring your socialized canine for a walk with a naturalist. *See box on p. 2 for more Hound Hike details.*

6:30 p.m. DHP — all ages

Tuesday, April 12 – Preschool Park Pals: Allota Terracotta 🌀

Let's have some fun with clay this month, while making useful items like plant markers, scented pendants or brown sugar discs. Be ready to get your hands dirty! Register by April 5.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. GF — ages 4 & 5, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, April 16 – Grow, Save, Swap

Seeds were one of the first trade commodities. Join the Delaware County Master Gardeners and learn tips and tricks to successfully grow plants and save their seeds. Participants can bring their own seeds to trade as part of an old-fashioned seed swap.

10 a.m. GF — ages 10+

Sunday, April 17 – Osprey Homecoming

See box on p. 6 for event details.

1 - 4 p.m. HRP — all ages

Friday, April 22 – Hike for the Earth

Cleaning out your closet + helping those in need + taking a scenic hike = a better community and a healthier you! Celebrate Earth Day by bringing gently used clothing and shoes to donate to the Common Ground Free Store. Then join us for a hike along the Shale Hollow trails. The first 50 families to donate will receive a small thank-you gift.

6 - 8 p.m. SHP — all ages

Saturday, April 23 – Lather Up! (Homesteading Series, p. 4)

Come to the farm and learn how housewives of the past kept their families clean. Witness how fat, lye and some amazing chemistry create a product that washes away dirt and grime. You will never look at soap the same way again.

1 p.m. GF — all ages

Sunday, April 24 – Wildflower Ways

We will walk along the woodland trails to not only enjoy the ephemeral beauty of the spring wildflowers, but also to learn a little about their folklore and traditional uses.

2 p.m. SHP — all ages

Monday, April 25 – Delaware County Bird Club

Learn about E-Bird, a global tool you can use to keep track of bird sightings, maintain lists of birds you see, and more! The Bird Club is open to anyone who appreciates birds and the natural world. Each meeting includes conversation and refreshments, followed by announcements and a program.

7 - 9 p.m. DHP — ages 14+

Wednesday, April 27 – Gallant Farm Book Club

Don't be shy! Join us in reading books that were popular during the Depression era and World War II years, or were written about those periods. All you need to do is read the book in advance and come for a fun, lively discussion. The April selection is *Delicious!* by Ruth Reichl.

6:30 p.m. GF — ages 14+

Thursday, April 28 – Homeschool Adventures: Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz 🌀

Let's make aromatherapy bathing salts, bath bombs and bath oils while learning the science and history behind these effervescing creations. We'll also explore essential oils that can be used to add "healing powers" to our bath mixtures. Bring your own unique small container and take home an aromatic blend for your own bath time! Register by April 21.

10 a.m. GF — ages 6-12, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, April 30 – Flight 2016 From the Tropics

Join Park District staff for our second morning bird walk, as we look for spring migrants that are winging in to settle down, or just making a temporary layover on their journey to more northerly breeding grounds. Be prepared to go off-trail if conditions permit. All skill levels welcome; loaner binoculars will be provided if needed.

8 a.m. SHP — ages 7+

Saturday, April 30 – Have Blacksmith Forge, Will Travel

Our park staff will take to the road, much like a traveling blacksmith would have done. Drop in to learn how important a forge was to rural farms and communities, and see a blacksmith forging some useful items during your visit.

1 - 3 p.m. ETP — all ages

Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1 – SAVE THE FROGS!

Drop in to the Deer Haven Visitor Center for an afternoon of frogs! Meet Ohio native species up close and personal, and discover ways you can help these amazing amphibians. Enjoy crafts and activities as you learn about frogs from all over the world.

Noon - 5 p.m. DHP — all ages



740-524-8600



contactparks@preservationparks.com

MAY

Saturday, May 7 – In Search Of ...

What lurks in the vernal pools of Charlotte's Woods? Who is making that cacophony of sounds? Where is the largest tree on the property? We'll leap off-trail in search of these answers and more! You never know what you'll find. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle.

10 a.m. GWP — all ages

Saturday, May 7 – Reel 'Em In! 🕒

Learn fishing basics, such as how to set up your rod and reel and what bait to use, and meet some of our native fish. Afterward, try your hand at catching "the big one!" Equipment and bait are provided. Register by April 30.

5 p.m. ETP — ages 5+

Sunday, May 8 – Moments with Mom: A Mother's Day Adventure

Bring the family to the park to enjoy activities that will touch Mom's heart. Drop in to take a hike along a memory lane nature trail, make crafts, plant a tree, and enjoy a picnic snack. All you need to bring is a picnic blanket ... and your mom!

1 - 4 p.m. SHP — all ages

Tuesday, May 10 – Preschool Park Pals: "R" is for Rainforest 🕒

May is rainforest awareness month! Come explore this amazing habitat through a story, fun activities and a craft. Register by May 3.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. DHP — ages 4 & 5, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15 – Nest Quest!

Scour the trails looking for a variety of items in a nest-themed scavenger hunt, during this drop-in program. Discover which animals in the park build nests and where to look for them. Take home a kit to provide your backyard birds with nesting material.

Noon - 5 p.m. DHP — all ages

Monday, May 16 – Storytime in the Park

Bring your wee one to the park and enjoy singing, movement, and a nature-themed story with volunteer Amy Walter. Help your child discover the wonders of the natural world.

9 a.m. DHP — ages 0-5

Monday, May 16 – Hound Hike

Bring your socialized canine for a walk with a naturalist. (See box, p. 2, for details.)

6:30 p.m. SHP — all ages

Thursday, May 19 – Homeschool Adventures: Hummer Hunt 🕒

Discover the secret life of a hummingbird, and search for what makes these birds so unique.

Register by May 12.

10 a.m. DHP — ages 6-12, accompanied by an adult



Saturday, May 21 – Sickles, Scythes & Exercise (Homesteading Series, at right)

For many years, scythes and sickles were used to mow yards, trim weeds, harvest crops – and build muscle! Today, these tools are seen as backbreaking and antiquated, but with proper care and instruction for use, they are a real pleasure. Learn how to sharpen a scythe and use it for cutting weeds and tall grass, and as an eco-friendly alternative to mowing a small yard.

10 a.m. GF — ages 12+

Wednesday, May 25 – Gallant Farm Book Club

Join us in reading books that were popular during the Depression era and World War II years, or were written about those periods. Just read the book in advance and come for a fun, lively discussion. The May selection is: *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow.

6:30 p.m. GF — ages 14+

Registration & Fee Information

Some programs carry a fee and/or require advance registration. Watch for programs with the following symbols.

\$ Fee for this program

- 🕒 **Registration required:** Note registration deadlines. To register, click on REGISTRATION link on website homepage. For more information, call 740-524-8600, ext. 6



Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Saturday, May 28 – Bird is the Word

Join Park District staff for a one-mile bird walk around Deer Haven's Tree Swallow and Bent Tree Ridge trails. We will search for lingering migrants, as well as summer residents in their breeding territories. This is a great opportunity to introduce your family to birdwatching. Loaner binoculars will be provided if needed.

9 a.m. DHP — all ages

Saturday, May 28 – Farm Pharmacy (Homesteading Series, see below)

Throughout history, people relied on the natural pharmacy surrounding them to treat wounds and illnesses. Healing pastes, tinctures, oils and powders have all been concocted from plants – some native to America, and others, now considered weeds, brought over from the "Old World." Learn how cultivated herbs and wild plants can be used to aid in everyday life.

1 p.m. GF — ages 10+

Homesteading Series

Life on an Ohio farm is very much dictated by the changing seasons. These programs at Gallant Farm showcase various season-specific farm activities, and will demonstrate not only how these activities were carried out during the Great Depression, but also how we can perform them today!

For descriptions for each program, refer to the monthly list. Upcoming programs: **Spring Garden Day (March 12), Lather UP! (April 23), Sickles, Scythes & Exercise (May 21), and Farm Pharmacy (May 28).** Join us for any or all of them.

10 public parks & trails open 365 days a year



Indian Pipe

Golden Marathon

SourcePoint ("Thrive After 55") offers weekly nature hikes for adults, age 55 and older. Many of these hikes are held in Preservation Parks, and several a year are led by a Preservation Parks naturalist. For complete details on the Golden Marathon program, contact Kathy at SourcePoint, 740-369-5133. All spring hikes are at 1:30 p.m., and hikes to be held in Preservation Parks are listed below.

March 7, 14, 21 & 28 hikes will be at Hogback Ridge Park, unless the weather is below 40 degrees. In that case, meet at the food court of Polaris Fashion Place.

- April 4 Shale Hollow Park
- April 11 Gallant Woods Park
- April 18 Blues Creek Park
- May 9 Emily Traphagen Park *

* Program led by Preservation Parks naturalist



Spring Look Aouts

Can you find the small, hidden seasonal items that are scattered around the nature display in the Deer Haven Park Visitor Center? Look up, look down, look all around — the items might be camouflaged! Use only your eyes to find as many as you can, tell us the number and you might win a prize!

The Visitor Center is open Noon - 5 p.m. every day.

- March:** 4-leaf clovers
- April:** Frogs
- May:** Fawns

Summer Letterbox Adventure

Join in the fun! Our award-winning Summer Letterbox Adventure will return May 28 and run through July 30. That gives you two months to visit 7 parks, follow clues to find little camouflaged boxes, and learn about nature as you go. Sign-up will take place at all Delaware County libraries anytime during the two months. And Preferred Wireless is back with new prizes and incentives for kids to finish the adventure. It's free and it's fun! Visit www.preservationparks.com for details.



Summer Camps

One-Week Camps

Outdoor Adventurers **Age 10**

June 27 – July 1, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Outdoor adventurers will get active and get outside! Campers go fishing, hike a trail, learn survival skills, float down a river, climb a rock wall and even go horseback riding! We will travel to many different sites throughout central Ohio.

12 campers maximum \$150.00 camp fee Register by June 13

Time Travelers **Ages 9, 10 & 11**

July 11 – 15, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Step into the Preservation Parks time machine and hold on as we set the clock for a trip back to 1930s rural Delaware County. Experience what life was like on a farm, through games, daily chores, stories and more. Go on hikes, feed the chickens, cook lunch on a wood-burning stove – all the while learning about the history of Delaware County and Ohio. You will have so much fun you won't want to step back into the time machine for the journey home!

20 campers maximum \$125.00 camp fee Register by June 27

Operation "Explore Nature" (one-day & partial-day sessions)

Habitat Thursdays **Age 6 & 7**

On the second Thursday of each month this summer, join us for an outdoor adventure! Meet some live animals, dip net in the wetlands, run through the prairie catching insects, roll over logs, and so much more! You'll search high and low for what makes each habitat – and its plants and animals – unique. Each session meets 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

- June 9** Woodland and Underground Habitats (ETP)
- July 14** Water Habitats (SHP)
- August 11** Prairie Habitat (DHP)

20 participants maximum \$30 fee per session (\$80 for all three)
Register two weeks before each session

Science Saturdays **Ages 8 & 9**

Do you love rocks and dirt? How about spiders? Or, maybe you love birds. No matter what your interest, we have something fun for you! Experiments, animals, hikes, games, crafts and other hands-on activities will uncover the wonders of nature. Each session meets 9 a.m.- noon.

- June 11** Dig It! (SHP)
- July 16** Spiders, Bees & Moths, Oh My! (DHP)
- August 13** Take Flight (DHP)

20 participants maximum \$20 fee per session (\$50 for all three)
Register two weeks before each session

Online registration and complete information about all camps, including space availability, can be found at www.preservationparks.com/programs/camps and by calling 740-524-8600, ext. 3.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Indicia

Park Hours

8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

District Office

Education Office

Mary McCoy Nature Center

2656 Hogback Road

Sunbury, Ohio 43074

740-524-8600

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon – Fri

Visitor Center at

Deer Haven Park

4183 Liberty Road

Delaware, Ohio 43015

740-362-0283

Noon – 5 p.m. daily

Gallant Farm

2150 Buttermilk Hill Road

Delaware, Ohio 43015

740-595-3020

Noon – 5 p.m. Thur – Sun



Printed on 100# Chorus Art Silk Text, a 30% (PCW) stock, using soy-based inks.

Or Current Resident

Osprey Homecoming

Sunday, April 17, 1 - 4 p.m.

Hogback Ridge Park & the Osprey Observation Area at Alum Creek Reservoir

All ages. FREE!

We'll celebrate the return of the Ospreys from their winter grounds in South America. Drop in to view osprey through scopes; enjoy crafts and refreshments; and learn about Ohio's threatened and endangered species.

Antique Tractor Show

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gallant Farm, 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road

All ages. FREE!

Join us as we celebrate the machines that enable farmers to accomplish a variety of tasks in less time. If you have an antique tractor you would like to show off, bring it to the show! Tractor registration begins at 8 a.m., and the show is open to the public 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. And, kids can bring favorite toy tractors to display. They might even win a prize! For more information, contact Gallant Farm at 740-595-3020.

Featuring

Antique tractors and demonstrations on plowing, stacking hay and baling (some demonstrations may be weather dependent).

Old-fashioned cake walk

"Fun & Games" area, including a sandbox and farm toys

Kiddy Pedal Tractor Pulls

Toy Tractor Display

Spring Garden Day

Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Gallant Farm

All ages. FREE!

This special program in the Homesteading Series (p. 4) will introduce you to gardening techniques that will save time, money and the environment! During four one-hour sessions, we will talk about:

Using shade, mulch & cover crops to produce a no-till garden

Starting your seeds indoors to save money

Composting how-tos

Collecting rainwater for a multitude of home uses

Full details are available under the program description in the on-line calendar. Visit www.preservationparks.com.

"Preserving our Heritage" 2016 Photo Contest

Start taking photos now for the **2016 Photo Contest**.

Take photos in any Preservation Park of park scenery, animals and insects, plants, people enjoying the parks, a pretty sunset – anything that interests you.

We're moving the photo contest onto Facebook, and complete details will be available later this spring on the Preservation Parks website (under Programs), on Facebook and in the Summer Program Guide.



Trout Lily